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Haven, a testimonial dinner was given to him by the observatory committee. Besides the committee there were present other members of the board of trustees and a few other guests.

Dr. H. D. Curtis has been elected director of the observatory and he is to assume charge early in July, 1920. Dr. Curtis has been connected with the Lick Observatory for about twenty years. For a number of years he had charge of the station of the Lick Observatory at Santiago, Chile; more recently he has had charge of the work with the Crossley Reflecting Telescope on Mount Hamilton.

Dr. Frank Craig Jordan, assistant professor at the Allegheny Observatory since 1908, has been promoted to a full professorship and has been elected assistant director of the observatory.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MEMBERS of the National Academy of Sciences have been elected as follows: Dr. James Rowland Angell, University of Chicago and the National Research Council, president-elect of the Carnegie Corporation, psychologist; Dr. Henry Prentiss Armsby, Pennsylvania State College, physiological chemist; Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft, Cornell University and the National Research Council, chemist; Dr. Hans F. Blichfeldt, Stanford University, mathematician; Dr. A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, physiologist; Dr. William Duane, Harvard University, physicist; Dr. Lewis R. Jones, University of Wisconsin, plant pathologist; Dr. Elmer Peter Kohler, Harvard University, chemist; Dr. Charles K. Leith, University of Wisconsin, geologist; Dr. Clarence Erwin McClung, University of Pennsylvania and National Research Council, zoologist; Dr. Elmer V. McCollum, the Johns Hopkins University, physiological chemist; Dr. George Washington Pierce, Harvard University, physicist; Harris J. Ryan, Stanford University, electrical engineer; Dr. Joel Stebbins, University of Illinois, astronomer, and Dr. Bailey Willis, Stanford University, geologist. Arthur L. Day, of the Carnegie Institution, and T. H. Morgan, of Columbia

University, were elected members of the council.

At a meeting held April 20, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in recognition of their scientific accomplishments, elected as correspondents the following: William Berryman Scott, Merrit L. Fernald, Hans Frederick Gadow, Johann P. Lotsy, Daniel T. MacDougal, Raymond Pearl, William E. Ritter, William Schaus and William Lutley Slater.

DR. WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS, emeritus professor of geology at Harvard University, has been awarded the Vega medal of the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society.

At its last meeting the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences made the following appropriations for research: To Professor H. M. Randall, of the University of Michigan, in aid of his research on the structure of spectra in the infra-red, five hundred dollars; to Professor L. R. Ingersoll, of the University of Wisconsin, in aid of his research on the polarizing effect of diffraction gratings, one hundred and fifty dollars; to Professor A. G. Webster, of Clark University, in aid of his researches on new methods in pyrodynamics and practical interior ballistics, five hundred dollars.

PROFESSOR JACQUES HADAMARD, Sc.D., LL.D., of the Collège de France, is delivering at Yale University the thirteenth regular course of lectures on the Hepsa Ely Silliman Foundation. The first of M. Hadamard's lectures on "Some topics in linear partial differential equations" was given on April 23.

THE second series of the LeConte Memorial lectures will be given in the Yosemite National Park during the months of June and July. These lectures were instituted in honor of the naturalist and geologist, Joseph Le Conte, who for thirty years was a member of the faculty of the University of California. This year the speakers and subjects are announced as follows: Dr. John C. Merriam, "The philosophy of Joseph Le Conte"; Dr. A. C. Lawson, "The geological history of the Sierra Nevada"; Dr. Joseph Grinnell, "The vertebrate animals of

the Yosemite"; Dr. C. Hart Merriam, "Indian tribes formerly in Yosemite."

THE University of Copenhagen has awarded the Salomonsen prize to Professor V. Ellermann for his work on leukemia in fowls. The fund for promotion of research on diabetes has been awarded to Dr. H. C. Hagedorn.

A PRELIMINARY committee has been formed to give to Sir George Thane, who recently resigned the chair of anatomy at University College, London, after forty-two years' service, some mark of the appreciation felt for him by his old pupils and colleagues. The intention is to ask Sir George Thane to sit for his portrait.

CLAUDE WAKELAND, deputy state entomologist of Colorado in charge of the alfalfa weevil investigation during the three years 1917-19, has accepted the position of state extension entomologist with the University of Idaho. Mr. Wakeland's permanent headquarters will be at Boise.

DR. DAVID KLEIN has resigned as associate professor of biochemistry in the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Hygiene, and has taken a position with the Hollister Wilson Laboratories, Chicago, Ill., as director of research and control laboratories.

ERNEST JENKINS HOFFMAN, who recently resigned as assistant chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh, Pa., has accepted a position in organic research with W. B. Pratt, Inc., Boston, Mass.

FIXING their base of scientific operations in Death Valley at a level of 178 feet below the sea at the mouth of Furnace Creek Canyon which issues from the Funeral Mountains, Dr. Francis B. Sumner, associate professor and biologist in the Scripps Institute for Biological Research, and Joseph Grinnell, professor of zoology and director of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, are now making special studies upon the mammals and birds of Death Valley. The expenses of the expedition are being defrayed from a special fund provided for the purpose by Mr. E. W. Scripps.

NEIL M. JUDD, curator of American archeology in the U. S. National Museum, left for northwestern Arizona on May 1 to continue his archeological investigations of the region north and west of the Rio Colorado. It is expected that a report on the prehistoric remains of this section of the southwest, covering researches of the past five years, will follow this season's work. At the request of the National Geographical Society, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has granted permission for Mr. Judd to direct the society's archeological reconnaissance of the Chaco Canyon region in New Mexico.

WHILE returning from the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society at St. Louis, Dr. J. H. Ransom, director of chemical research at the Michigan Smelting and Refining Co., Detroit, Mich., stopped off at Purdue University and delivered a lecture on Non-Ferrous Alloys before the students of the school of chemical engineering. Dr. Ransom was formerly professor of general chemistry in this university.

It is requested that any material or facts of interest which will aid in the construction of a biographical memoir of the life and work of Henry Lord Wheeler, be mailed to Professor Treat B. Johnson, of Yale University, who is preparing a memoir of Professor Wheeler for the National Academy of Sciences.

THE autumn meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Chicago from September 7 to 10, inclusive.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Colorado Academy of Sciences which is the natural history section of the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado, was held at the State Museum, Denver, on April 2, when the following program was presented:

Work done and work that should be done by—

1. The Office of the State Forester, W. J. Morrill, state forester, Ft. Collins, Colo.
2. The Office of the State Geologist, R. D. George, state geologist, Boulder, Colorado.
3. The Office of the State Entomologist, C. P. Gillette, state entomologist, Fort Collins, Colo.

THE annual convention of Sigma Gamma

Epsilon, the national undergraduate fraternity devoted to mining and geology, was held at Columbia, Missouri, on April 2 and 3. The fraternity passed resolutions urging the taking of steps to eliminate the fake mining engineer and geologist and offering its assistance to that end. A chapter of the fraternity is to be shortly installed in the University of Texas.

THE University of Arizona through the Arizona Bureau of Mines will this year conduct its annual field course in geology and mining for advanced students in the Dos Cabezas Mountains in southeastern Arizona. The region selected is one of complex and highly diversified geology, and several different types of ore deposits are under active development there. The party will enter the field on July 1, and will remain in camp for eight weeks.

PROFESSOR DAYTON C. MILLER, of the Case School of Applied Science, lectured under the auspices of the Research Committee of Oberlin College on April 14, on "Scientific Research at an army post."

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON, of Columbia University, addressed the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, on March 19, on "The influence of topography on the war"; and a joint meeting of the Men's Canadian Club and the Women's Canadian Club of Quebec, on March 20, on "Geographic problems of the Peace Conference."

PROFESSOR MAX MASON, of the University of Wisconsin, lectured on April 7 and 8 before the department of mathematics and physics of the University of Iowa on the "Einstein theory of gravitation." He gave also a general lecture on "Methods used for the detection of submarines." Professor Mason is the inventor of apparatus for the detection of submarines.

DR. H. J. WHEELER, of Boston, recently addressed the agricultural faculty and graduate students in agriculture of the University of Minnesota on "The effect of crops upon those which follow," giving a summary of his earliest work on this subject in Rhode Island and of the continuation of it by Hartwell and Pember.

At the Royal Geographical Society on March 17, Sir Ernest Shackleton gave an account of the geographical and scientific results of the 1914-1917 Antarctic Expedition.

DR. GEO. F. FREEMAN, botanist of the Société Sultanienne Agriculture, gave a lecture before the Cairo Scientific Society, April 1, on "The origin of agricultural plants."

THE New York Academy of Medicine held a memorial meeting in honor of the late Dr. Abraham Jacobi's ninetieth birthday anniversary on May 6. A bas-relief of Dr. Jacobi was presented by George McAneny and was accepted by the president of the academy, Dr. George David Stewart. The principal address was delivered by Dr. George E. Vincent, of the Rockefeller Foundation.

At an International Conference of Red Cross Societies, held at Washington in 1912, it was decided to establish a medal both as a memorial to Florence Nightingale and to give international recognition to outstanding work by trained nurses in all parts of the world. Owing to the outbreak of the war in 1914, the first awards of this medal were postponed; but it is announced that it is intended to award fifty of these medals in January, 1920. The medal is in silver and enamel, consisting of a portrait of Florence Nightingale, "The Lady with the Lamp," with the words "Ad memoriam Florence Nightingale 1820-1910." On the reverse, surrounding a space reserved for the name of the recipient, is the inscription: "Pro vera misericordia et cara humanitate perennis decor universalis." The medal is attached to a white and red ribbon, on which is displayed a laurel wreath in green enamel surrounding a red cross on a white ground.

MR. CHARLES EDWARD GROVES, F.R.S., editor of the *Journal* of the London Chemical Society from 1884-1899, and vice-president of the society from 1899-1902, who died on February 1, aged 79, has left £10,000 to the Royal Institution for the "Groves Endowment Fund" for the promotion of scientific research, to take effect on the death of the last surviving member of his family.

THE Lake Laboratory, which is now permanently located at Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie, will open for the summer of 1920 on June 21. Its facilities will be available for investigators until the middle of August. Courses for students in both plant and animal ecology, entomology, the structure of fresh-water vertebrates, and in ichthyology will be conducted until August 1. The staff will be composed of Professor R. C. Osborn, director, Dr. F. H. Kreckler, acting director, Professor S. R. Williams, of Miami University, Professor M. E. Stickney, of Dennison University, and Dr. C. H. Kennedy, of the Ohio State University. Some studies on fisheries problems were carried on last year and others are to be started during the coming session. It is desired to have the laboratory as well supplied as possible with recent biological literature and therefore investigators will be of direct service to the laboratory by including it in their mailing list. All reprints of such articles and all correspondence should be addressed to the Lake Laboratory, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A BILL recently passed by the Maryland legislature combines the Maryland State College of Agriculture with the University of Maryland School of Medicine under the name of the University of Maryland. The legislature appropriated \$42,500, each year, for the medical school for the next two years and in addition appropriated \$186,476 for the other departments of the university for 1921, and \$165,416 for 1922. An appropriation of \$203,000 was made for buildings and equipment.

DR. WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, of the General Chemical Company, has given \$100,000 toward the endowment fund of New York University.

It is planned to erect a new chemistry building at Dartmouth College, which will involve an expenditure of about \$350,000. Construction will be begun immediately.

THE board of trustees of the College of the City of New York has authorized the granting of degrees of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineer on the satisfactory completion of a curriculum requiring five years. The announcement of the details of the curricula will shortly be issued. This is one of the steps taken by the College of the City of New York in the direction of closer cooperation between industry and colleges and colleges and universities.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GEORGE E. NICHOLS, of Yale University, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the University of Michigan Biological Station for the coming summer session.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SINGING SANDS

PROFESSOR RICHARDSON's recent article about "Singing Sands" of Lake Michigan, suggests to me that in analyzing the beach sands the students may have taken needless trouble, for the cause is certainly not dependent on their composition.

The fascinating pages of Marco Polo have numerous references to this phenomena, more or less exaggerated and tinged with superstition, and many travelers have discussed and some scientists have studied it.

A volume by Hanns Vischer confirms the previous statements of Commandant Gadel, Concerning the "voice of the mountain" near the oasis of Bilma, he, Vischer, says:

There is a dark and forbidding rock frowning over Bilma near the southern end of the oasis. This mountain warns the inhabitants of the approaching arrival of a caravan; when it "sings" the men then know that a caravan is close at hand. The noise is produced by the blowing of the wind from a certain direction through crevices of the torn rock.

Says Gadel:

On the sixth of October in the morning, the old Liman came to tell me that the mountain had spoken. On the eighth of October, at ten in the morning, the first Asbin caravan arrived, consisting of 4,851 camels and 857 men. The mountain had not lied.